

St Bede's Newsletter

Welcome to St Bede's...



Attendance up to 23/10/25

Y1	Y1/2	Y2	Y3	Y3/4	Y4	Y5	Y5/6	Y6
97.75	95.06	97.31	97.48	96.77	98.55	97.86	96.22	95.54

Next week...

Monday 10th November

SEND Parental Drop-ins

Tuesday 11th November

Y6 Remembrance Liturgy
10.45am

Wednesday 12th November

TTRS Day - whole school

Thursday 13th November

Y5-6 Sportshall Athletics

Friday 14th November

Y3-4 Sportshall Athletics

This week's events...

Tue 4th November

Reception Stay & Pray
2.45pm

Wed 5th November

KS1 Stay & Pray 2.45pm

Thu 6th November

- LKS2 Stay & Pray 2.45pm
- DFC Girls Football
Tournament @
Eastbourne

Fri 7th November

UKS2 Stay & Pray 2.45pm

Parents are
invited for Stay &
Pray sessions

Our Safeguarding Focus This Week...

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about FORTNITE

With over 650 million registered users, Fortnite remains one of the most played and discussed online games globally. Known for its vibrant graphics, fast-paced gameplay, and cultural crossovers with everything from music artists to superhero franchises, the game continues to capture the attention of young people. This guide outlines the risks trusted adults need to know about, including game updates, and offers practical safety tips to help address them.

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI 12

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ALWAYS ONLINE
There's no single-player, offline mode in Fortnite; it can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about, both in terms of connectivity and using up data. You may find that dedicated, young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about family time or trips away – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

IN-GAME COSTS
Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – limited-time cosmetic 'skins', music tracks, LEGO items, and battle passes. Children can feel pressured to spend money on V-Bucks – the in-game currency – to avoid missing out, particularly as exclusive items rotate frequently. Some items may not return to the store for years, while Battle Pass rewards are often 'gone when they're gone'.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE
There's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the contest. That said, there's no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood, such as mini-games and emotes. Guns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, so discretion is advised. Past seasons have introduced characters and references from mature franchises like The Witcher and Halo.

CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT
Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. Crossplay allows friends to play with each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC, while the Party Chat feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can put youngsters at risk of exposure to strangers, inappropriate language, and cyberbullying.

FREQUENT UPDATES
Seasonal releases introduce new map changes, gameplay mechanics, and cosmetics. Ongoing updates can increase screen time and potential for obsession as children try to unlock rewards before the season ends. These regular releases help to hook players' interest, but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back. Seasons often change thematically.

POP CULTURE REFERENCES
Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from films and TV shows like Power Rangers and Avatar: The Last Airbender, to comic book characters including Batman. Other collaborations with series, artists, and influencers may expose children to music, language, or ideas that are more suitable for older audiences.

Advice for Parents & Educators

DISCUSS SAFE SOCIAL INTERACTION
Talk with children about who they're playing with online. Coordinate play time with the child's friends for socialisation and safety in numbers. Encourage them to avoid private voice chats with strangers and remind them not to share personal information. Use real-life examples to explain potential risks, and remind them that if they see something concerning, they should tell a trusted adult.

ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER
Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child's friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents to do something fun with their child, while making sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows? You might even teach them a thing or two!

SET SPENDING LIMITS
Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulse purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

BE WARY OF SCAMS
The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game. Make sure any young player knows this.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including iDOL, TechRadar, and plenty more.

#WakeUpWednesday
The National College

Social Media:
X @wake_up_weds
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Instagram @wake.up.wednesday
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Please remember to check our school calendar regularly for important dates

<https://stbedesdarlington.bhcet.org.uk/school-calendar>





November Highlights

4th-7th Stay & Pray

12th TTRS Day - whole school

13th-14th Sportshall Athletics

25th Mr Morgan Y5 Class Assembly



Messy Church

The Salvation Army
Thompson Street East
DL1 3EW
Sunday
23rd November 2025
4pm-6pm

Crafts Songs Food Games

Free for the whole family
(children must come with an adult)

Feel free just to show up
or let us know you're coming
with the details below.

ton@SalvationArmy.org 01325 380994 @TheCitadelDarlington

TTRS

HERE AT ST BEDE'S, WE THINK THAT TIMES TABLES AND NUMBER BONDS ROCK, SO WE'RE HAVING A TIMES TABLES ROCKSTARS DAY!

ON **WEDNESDAY 12TH NOVEMBER**, ALL CHILDREN FROM NURSERY TO YEAR 6 CAN STRUT THEIR STUFF DRESSED AS THEIR FAVORITE ROCK STAR AND JAM OUT ALL DAY WITH ROCKIN' TIMES TABLES AND NUMBER BONDS THEMED ACTIVITIES.

GET READY TO ROCK THOSE TABLES, EVERYBODY!



REMEMBRANCE DAY

11th November

Next week, our school will honour Remembrance Day with a special Year 6 liturgy. We will also observe a two-minute silence as a mark of respect, and children will take part in meaningful classroom activities designed to help them understand the sacrifices made by the brave soldiers who fought for their country.

In addition, we are proud to once again support the **Royal British Legion** Poppy Appeal through our school **Poppy Shop**. Our Head Girls will be offering items such as wrist bands, bracelets, reflectors and stickers, as well the traditional paper poppy, available for a suggested donation of 50p to £1. All proceeds will go directly to this most worthy charity.



Let's We Forget